

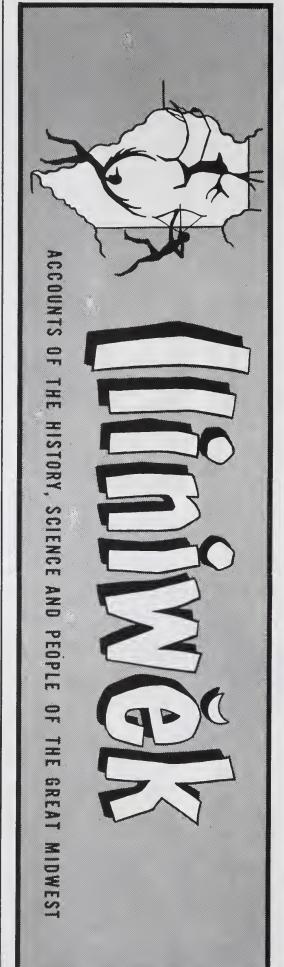
Illinois Springfield

Tinsley Building

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

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FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

September, 1969

Lincoln's Law Offices In The Tinsley Building 1843 - 1852

Editor's Note: In the preparation of this article I have relied heavily on the work of James T. Hickey, the curator of the Lincoln collection of the Illinois State Historical Library of Springfield. His research notes have proved invaluable in attempting to work out the complicated history of the Tinsley Building.

Likewise, the editor is indebted to Richard M. Phillips, the editor of Illinivek, whose article "Prairie Lawyer" appeared in the May-June 1969 issue. His concise account of the three Lincoln law partnerships, the different office locations by the use of floor plans and maps and the excellent photographs with which he illustrated his article have made my task much easier in attempting to present an accurate account of the historic building.

The editor also found James E. Meyer's article "Springfield The Town That Remembers Lincoln" that was published by the Chicago Tribune Sunday Magazine on December 15, 1968, most helpful in describing the furnishings and contents of the restored building.

R. G. M.

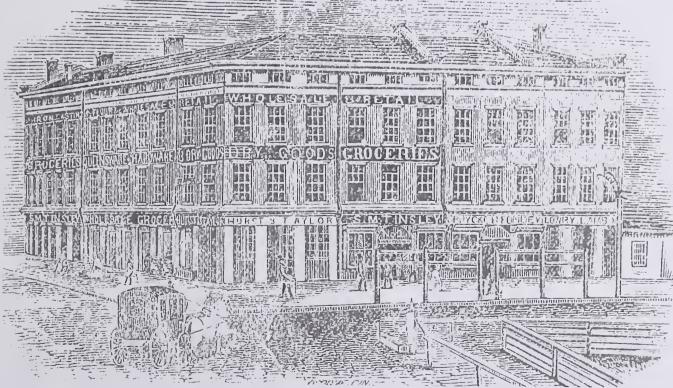
In the summer months of 1843 the law firm of Stephen T. Logan and Abraham Lincoln moved to a large office on the third floor of the Tinsley Building at Sixth and Adams Streets. Their original location had been on the east side of North Fifth Street less than one-half of a block from the Square. The present walk-up teller's windows of the Illinois National Bank mark the site. This original office was also directly across Fifth Street from the location of the former Stuart and Lincoln law office. In the Tinsley Building they probably occupied the vacated Shields and Conkling office. Although directly over the United States District and Circuit Court Room on the second floor, their advertising card in the local papers stated they were over the post office which was located on the first floor. The Tinsley Building at this time was only about three years old and was considered a show place in Springfield.

The firm's new location was announced by the following business card which appeared in the Sangamo Jour-nal of July 27, 1843:

Logan & Lincoln Attorneys and Councellors at Law, Springfield — Office over the Post Office — third story

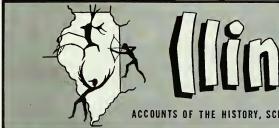
This law-partnership, originating in 1841, was short lived because Logan wished to form an association with his son, David. In December 1844 Logan moved to a smaller office on the third floor of the Tinsley Building, in order to practice law with his son.

Lincoln remained in the large front office, taking into



From The Illinois State Historical Library

The Tinsley Building (Circa 1850) taken from a woodcut which appeared in the Illinois State Journal of June 1, 1850.



ACCOUNTS OF THE HISTORY, SCIENCE AND PEOPLE OF THE GREAT MIDWEST

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OUR COVER PICTURE



Lincoln's law office from 1843 to 1847 on the third floor of the Tinsley Building (front) showing view of the State House through window.

Ahraham Lincoln moved from New Salem to the Square in Springfield. Here, in the shadow of the State House, he spent almost half of his lifetime. While in Springfield, other men and events came into Lincoln's life that were just as important as Jack Kelso, James Rutledge, a flathoat trip to New Orleans, and New Salem had heen. Just as one cannot understand Lincoln's early life and leave out the hackground of New Salem, neither can his later life he understood without the background of the Square in Springfield. Our story highlights some of his experiences during this time.

We wish to thank the Illinois State Historical Library and, in particular, Miss Margaret Flint, James Hickey and Howard Rissler for their help during our research on the "Prairie Lawyer."



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ASST. EDITOR, MARJORIE FRENZEL



On Fehruary 28, 1837, the issue of a permanent location for the State Capital came to the floor of the General Assembly at Vandalia. Several hallots were cast. On the fourth, Lincoln and the other members of the Sangamon County delegation hurst into cheers as Springfield, finally receiving a majority vote, hecame the new Capital of Illinois.

The next day, March 1, 1837, Lincoln appeared hefore the clerk of the Illinois Supreme Court to he admitted to the har. With his right hand upraised, he swore to "in all things faithfully execute the duties of attorney and counsellor at law."

Immediately after the General Assembly adjourned on March 6, 1837. Lincoln and the other legislators returned to Springfield. The people of Springfield, in a celebrating mood, expressed their joy with dinners, speeches, and a round of events which included hurning the whipping post in the Square.

After the festivities were over, Lincoln returned to New Salem to settle his affairs and tell his friends that he would he leaving them to practice law in Springfield. A few days later, on April 15, 1837, he gathered together his two or three law hooks and the few pieces of clothing he possessed, stuffed them in his saddlehags, and rode into Springfield on a horrowed horse.

Lincoln made his way to the west side of the Square, tied up his horse, slipped off his saddlehags, and entered a store at 103 South Fifth Street. Tossing the saddlehags on the counter, he inquired of the young man who stepped up to wait on him the cost of some items of hedroom furniture. Joshua Speed, the young clerk and owner of the store, picked up a slate, did some figuring, and quoted a price. Lincoln, however, told him that he could not afford it. The young man, his sympathy aroused hy Lincoln's gloomy, melancholy face, introduced himself and said, "I have a large room upstairs with a double hed in it which you are perfectly welcome to share with me." "Where is this room?" Lincoln asked. "There," replied Speed, pointing to a hack stairway. Lincoln, without another word, slipped his saddlebags on his arm, went upstairs, and set them down on the floor. He returned and, heaming with pleasure, exclaimed, "Well, Speed, I'm moved!"



Joshua Speed, one of Lincoln's closest friends.



A sketch of Speed's store huilding, 103 South Fifth Street, (as it appeared ahout 1865).

On this very same day, April 15, 1837, there had appeared in the Sangamo Journal the following husiness card.

J. T. STUART AND A. LINCOLN,
A TTORNEYB and Counsellors at Law. with practice
conspicially, in the Courts of this Judicial Circuit.—
Office No. 4 Hoffman's Row, up stairs.
8pringfield, april 12, 1837.

How did Springfield look to Lincoln in that day? Like most prairie towns, it was hull around a square. On the Springfield Square sat the Sangamon County Courthouse, a two-story brick hullding with a hippad roof and a cupola looking very much lika an old-fashioned coffee mill without a handle. From tha cupola, one could look out over the town's husiness houses



which faced the Square, most of them one-story frame huildings and here and there a two-story hrick huilding or a log cahin. Extending out from the Square was the residential section. At this time, during April, the streets were quite likely to he a wallow of mud with the wheels of heavy wagons sinking in to their axles. In the summer or in dry weather, they sank as deep in dust. There were no sidewalks or street lights, and the hogs ran loose ahout town. If there was no moon, one could guide himself only hy the dim light of candles glowing weakly from the windows.

Now that Springfield was the new State Capital, the townspeople anticipated many changes. Of course, the Courthouse on the Square would he demolished to make way for the new State House, as is indicated from this notice which appeared in the same April 15th issue of the Sangamo Journal.

TO ARCHITECTS.

PREMIUM of Three Hundred Dollars will be given for the but plan and estimate, if adopted in dettal, of a Building for a State House, to be srected in the cortic of theorem of Springfeld, Sangarom county, Illiano, on a and estimate to be furnished the subscriber on or before the first day of June next. ARCHIBALD JOB Pere't of the the Board of Commissioners to apparent the section of the Public Springfeld, Ill., April 8, 1837.

Springfield was, at this time, a very promising place for a young lawyer to start his practice hecause the town, as a State Capital, would hecome the location for the State Supreme Court, and the Federal District and Circuit Courts of the United States.

Living at Speed's store was very convenient for Lincoln. He had only to walk out the front door, turn left, cross Washington Street, walk past three doors, and climh the stairs at No. 4 Hoffman's Row to the law office which he shared with his first law partner, John Todd Stuart. Hoffman's Row was the name given to six new two-story hrick huildings which, at this time, were the hest office huildings in town. Although nice-appearing on the outside, the offices were anything hut pretentious on the inside.



Sketch of the Stuart and Lincoln law office building at 4 Hoffman's Row (as it appeared ahout 1865).

John T. Stuart, a well-known attorney, had the husiast practice in Springfield. He was a tall man, very pleasing and dignified; and, a Kentuckian hy hirth, ha was a true Southarn Gantleman. Lincoln and Stuart first hecame acquainted whila sarving in the Blackhawk War. Later, Lincoln visited his offica in Springfield to

horrow law hooks. Stuart, more interested in politics than law, was amhitious to go to Congress. Therefore, he spent most of his time away from the office furthering his political career. Lincoln, as the junior partner, had to attend to practically all of the firm's husiness including the great hurden of paper work necessary to a law practice in those days.



John Todd Stuart, Lincoln's first law partnar, 1837-1841, a trua Southern Gentleman from Kentucky who was more interested in politics than law.

The only time Lincoln probably found for relaxation or diversion was spent in front of a large fireplace in the back of Speed's store. Often in the evenings, the Whigs, Democrats, and others of the town gathered to talk of politics, people, and events. Here, Lincoln and Douglas probably held their first informal debate.

1838 On August 6, 1838, Lincoln was elected to the Legislature for the third time and Stuart, his partner, was elected to Congress.

1839 Lincoln's partner, John T. Stuart, left for Washington on Novemher 2, 1839, to take his seat in Congress. Since Stuart was to he gone for shout two years, Lincoln had full responsibility of the law practice. As Lincoln also had his legislative duties in addition to the law practice, he faced a very husy time.

1840 Sometime in the fall of 1840, Lincoln managed to take time off from his hurden of work to do a little courting. On occasion he was seen about candle-lighting time walking along Second Street toward the Ninian W. Edwards home on the hill at Second and Jackson streats (where the Centennial Building now stands). The object of his attentions was Miss Mary Todd, a sister of Mrs. Edwards with whom she was staying at the time.

1841 Lincoln's courtship continued through the early winter and up to the fateful day of January 1, 1841, when a great emotional crisis caused him great suffering and anguish. Exactly what happened is prasently unknown, but a probable guess is that he hroke his engagement to Mary Todd.

Continued on next page



On January 13, 1841, Lincoln was absent from the Legislature because of illness. He attended a session on January 19th but appeared very gaunt and was so lacking in strength that he could not speak above a whisper.

On January 23, 1841, Lincoln wrote Stuart who was in Washington: "I fear I shall be unable to attend to any business here; and a change of scene might help me. If I could be, myself, I would rather remain at home with Judge Logan. I can write no more."

Later, after Stuart's return to Springfield from his term in Congress, they mutually agreed to terminate their partnership and on Friday, May 14, 1841, the following business card appeared in the Sangamo Journal. Lincoln had only to move across the street.

Logan & Lincoln.
TORNEYS and Counsellors at Law, Springfield,
-Office opposite Hoffman's Row.

Lincoln's new partner, Stephen T. Logan, was ten years his senior. He was a small man with a craggy face, thick frizzy hair, and a shrill unpleasant voice. Utterly careless in dress, he wore a bleached cotton shirt, heavy shoes, and baggy pants. He was never known to wear a tie. Logan, however, despite his manner of dress and the handicap of his voice was the leader of the Sangamon ber at this time. There was within this great pioneer leader a feeling for the importance of the law. Therefore, he insisted on proper planning and preparation of each case, including all the detailed paper work which he personally inspected.

Lincoln, during his former partnership with Stuart, had been given at times to a haphazard reliance on his natural talents, especially his ready wit, rather

than study and preparation. One example of Lincoln's use of ridicule early in his law career involves Judge Logan who opposed him. This incident, according to the Pekin attorney who witnessed it, occurred during Lincoln's closing argument when he suddenly exclaimed: "Why, gentlemen, just look at Judge Logan's dickey—Do you see it? Judge Logan does not even know how to put on his dickey. Look at it, see it, gentlemen of the Jury!" Lincoln won the lawsuit.



Stephen T. Logan, Lincoln's second law partner, 1841-1844, a man dedicated to the law, precise and exacting.

Lincoln's new senior partner probably knew his weaknesses well. He was firm and exacting but not unkind, and Lincoln probably benefitted greatly from this association.

PLOOR PLAN TINSLEY BUILDING U.S. COURT COURTROOM POST OFFICE TINSLEY'S STORE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT and DISTRICT COURT of ILLINOIS JUDGE'S OFFICES SECOND PLOOR FIRST FLOOR LINCOLN LAW OFFICE CONFERENCE LOGAN & LINCOLN LAW DEFICE ROOM HERNDON Lincoln & Herndon 1844 — 1847 1847~1852

THIRD FLOOR

Joshua Spaad, in the spring of 1841, sold his interest in the store and returned to his home in Louisville, Kentucky. Speed had heen Lincoln's closest friend and confidant. They were about the same age and they easily exchanged thoughts on life and love. Due to the deep prohing of his mind during his illness. Lincoln prohably missed the conversations with Speed.

After the summer term of Circuit Court had ended, Lincoln decided to visit Speed and sometime around August 12, 1841, left for Louisville, Kentucky. He returned to Springfield around September 15th, apparently greatly improved from his illness.

1842 After Lincoln's return, he concentrated all his efforts on perfecting his law practice.

In the summer of 1842, however, Mrs. Simeon Francis, wife of the editor of the Sangamo Journal, heing a warm-hearted and motherly woman, decided that Lincoln's and Miss Todd's love affair had heen frustrated by Mrs. Edwards. Mrs. Francis, therefore, conspired to have Miss Todd and Lincoln meet at her house. She was successful in her efforts and the secret meetings continued. During these meetings, Lincoln, Miss Todd, and her friend, Julia Jayne, wrote a series of letters poking fun at James Shields, the State Auditor. They were written in a hackwoods dialect and were signed "Rebecca." Mr. Francis, Editor of the Sangamo Journal, thought them clever and printed them in his paper. His readers also thought them clever, but when the third letter appeared in the Sangamo Journal of Septemher 9, 1842, Shields stormed the newspaper office demanding to know who wrote them. Mr. Francis, after several threats by Shields, named Lincoln as the author of the Rehecca letters.

Shields immediately drove to Tremont where Lincoln was in court and challenged him to a duel. Seconds were appointed and for several weeks there was much mystery and intrigue as Lincoln's seconds and friends attempted to stop the duel. On September, 22, the duel was called off.

The excitement and danger must have brought Mary Todd and Lincoln closer together, for they were married a few months later on Novambar 4, 1842, at the Ninian Edwards home on the hill. Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln took up residence at the Glohe Tavern.

1843 Now and then an important person is hrought to trial which usually arouses the public as well as those of the legal profession. Such a trial involved the legality of a warrant served on the Mormon leader, Joseph Smith, by Governor Ford at the request of the Governor of Missouri.

Joseph Smith and his apostles arrived in town on New Year's Eve and, after attending a hall at the American House, were the sensation of Springfield. Joseph Smith's hearing was scheduled for January 4, 1843. His attorneys were Butterfield and Edwards; Judge Nathaniel Pope was on the hench.

The United States District and Circuit Courtroom, where the hearing was to take place, was on the second floor of the Tinsley Building on the southwest corner of Sixth and Adams streets. The huilding, at this time only a year old, was the show place of Springfield.

The following Is a description of how the trial opened, as told hy Issac Arnold, a Chicago Attorney.

"The Prophet (so-called) was attended hy his twelve Apostles and a large number of his followers...
The court room thronged with prominent members of the har, and public men, Judge Pope was a gallant gentleman of the old school, and loved nothing hetter than to he in the midst of youth and heauty. Seats were crowded on the Judge's platform, on hoth sides and hehind the Judge, and an array of hrilliant and heautiful ladies almost encircled the Court. Mr. Butterfield, dressed a la Webster, in hiue dress-coat and metal huttons, with huff vest, rose with dignity and amidst the most profound silence. Pausing, and running his eyes admiringly from the central figure of Judge Pope, along the rows of lovely women on each side of him, he said: May it please the Court: I appear hefore you today under circumstances most novel and peculiar. I am to address the "Pope" (howing to the Judge) surrounded hy angels (howing still lower to the ladies), in the presence of the holy Apostles, in hehalf of the Prophet of the

Continued on next page



United States District and Circuit Courtroom, 1841-1855. Here Lincoln probably watched with interest the trial of Joseph

Smith, the Mormon prophet, as he was tried on a warrant for his arrest issued hy Governor Ford.

Lincoln no doubt watched with interest since he had had a case hefore Judge Pope tha day before and was to have another the day after Smith's hearing.

The firm of Logan and Lincoln, about six months later, moved its office, which was across from Hoffman's Row, to a large front office on the third floor of the Tinsley Building directly over the United States District and Circuit Court Room. The move was announced by the following husiness card which appeared in the Sangamo Journal of July 27, 1843.

Logan & Lincoln,
A TTORNEY and Counsellors at Law, Springfield
-Office over the post office—third story.

On August 1, 1843. Rohert Todd, the Lincoln's first baby, was horn, and shortly afterward they moved from the Glohe Tavern to a little cottage at 214 South Fourth Street.

1844 On May 2, 1844, the Lincolns moved from the cottage to a house which they had purchased on the northeast corner of Eighth and Jackson streets.

Sometime in the fall of 1844, Logan expressed to Lincoln his desire to go into partnership with his son, and, after talking it over, they agreed to end their partnership. That December, Logan moved to a small office on the third floor of the Tinsley Building and set up a partnership with his son, David.

Lincoln remained in the large front office. He took into partnership Billy Herndon, a young man, nine years his junior, who had just received his license to practice. Lincoln's new partner was no stranger, for he had known Billy, as he called him, since childhood. The two worked well together: Lincoln toured the circuit while Billy stayed at home and took care of the office work.

1845 For several years Lincoln had suhordinated his political ambitions to others in his party. However, he

had no intention of doing this forever and in the summer of 1845, he hegan writing letters to influential people in the party informing them of his desire to go to Congress.



William H. Herndon, Lincoln's third and last law partner, 1844-1865. Also Lincoln's biographer.

1846 After much squahbling within the party, Lincoln was accepted as a candidate for Congress. On August 3, 1848. he won hy a large majority over his opponent, Peter Cartwright, a Democrat and a Methodist minis-

1847 Following the election, Lincoln continued on the circuit until October 25, 1847, when he left Springfield for Washington and entered the national political scene for the first time.



Lincoln's law office, third floor (front) Tinslay Building. Occupied by Logan and Lincoln, 1843-1844, and Lincoln and Herndon, 1844-1847.

Since Lincoln would he away from any active law practice in Springfield for ahout two years during his term in Congress, Lincoln and Herndon moved from the large front office on the third floor of the Tinsley Building to the small office at the rear of the third floor which had formerly heen occupied by Logan and his son, David. In December of 1847 the move was announced hy the following husiness card which appeared in the local paper.

Abraham Liucoln, W. H. Hernden. INCOLN & HERNDON, Attornies and Counsellors at Law, will practice in the Courts of Occ. 1847-54



Small office on the third floor of the Tinsley Building (rear) occupied by Lincoln end Herndon, 1847-1852.

1848 Lincoln returned to Springfield sometime around Octoher 7, 1848, made a few speeches and worked on an invention to lift hoats over shoals. He returned to Washington on December 7, 1848, and took his seat in the Thirtieth Congress.

1849 The Thirtieth Congress adjourned on March 4, 1849. Lincoln returned to Springfield at the end of March, and in June went hack to Washington in an attempt to secure an appointment from President Taylor as Commissioner of the General Land Office. Unsuccessful in this attempt, he returned to Springfield.

When Lincoln arrived in Springfield sometime around July 4, 1849, he was considered a political failure hoth at home and on tha national scene. Some newspapers around the State had called him a traitor and a "Benedict Arnold." It was a different town that greetad him now than it was when he first started his law practice. Springfield, as far as Lincoln was concerned, was now questioning his actions in Congress. For several days Lincoln sat brooding in the little law office at the rear of the Tinsley Building. More humiliating still were the thoughts of Douglas, Shields, and Baker with their hrilliant careers, admiring public, and circle of friends. Lincoln was receiving the very valuahle discipline of defeat: He realized that for the time heing, his political career had come to an end. He had no choice hut to return to his law practice—hut was it really his? Harndon, hy hard work, had kept the husiness of the firm. Lincoln felt it was unjust and told Harndon that ha would withdraw. Billy, however, insisted that he remain.

Lincoln again returned to his heloved circuit and Billy stayed at homa and took care of the office. The Eighth Judicial Circuit covered about one-fifth of the entire area of tha Stata. If Lincoln was ever happy, it was when riding the old Eighth Circuit or trying a case in some little county seat courthouse. Usually the lawyers traveled ahout in groups from town to town. At least a day was required for thesa journeys and often two or three days were necassary. The hest seasons for travel wara spring and early summar when tha prairia was grandly haautiful with patches of wild flowars and waving grass interspersed with dalightful grovas. 1852 Sometime during 1852, the law firm of Lincoln and Herndon was moved from the Tinsley Building to a hack room on the second floor at 103 South Fifth Street. Changes hegan to he evident in Lincoln's character aftar he hegan to devote his attention toward making himself a hetter lawyer and an enlightened man. He was growing not only in stature as a lawyer hut in great-ness as a man and, as was inevitable, he was winning hack the confidence of the people.



Sometime during 1852, Lincoln and Herndon moved their Iaw office from the Tinsley Building to the second floor (rear) of the huilding et 103 South Fifth Street.

1854 In 1854 Lincoln again reentered politics, hut only to help Richard Yates of Jacksonville. In an effort to rally Whig forces, he and Stephen T. Logan agreed to run for the State Legislature. Lincoln was again defeated. Suffering deep disappointment, he returned to his law practice for another five years.

Lincoln hegan to recognize that the law had to adapt to changing times. The great advancements in science and new inventions had made the law more complex and required a particular form of legal knowledge in these fields. This, of course, brought larger fees. Lincoln was interested in the problem of industry and transportation and as a result, was prohably Illinois' first corporation lawyer.

1858 Lincoln was again drawn to politics, hecoming the Republican candidate for United States Senator against Stephen A. Douglas, a Democrat. The first of the great debates between Lincoln and Douglas was held in Ottawa, Illinois, on August 21. Despite Lincoln's untiring efforts, on November 2nd he was again defeated at the polls.

1859 Shortly after Lincoln's defeat hy Douglas, a few small-town newspapers in Illinois, and even a few Republican newspapers across the nation, hegan to speak of Lincoln as a worthy presidential candidate. Lincoln did not personally feel qualified and attempted to re-turn to his law practice, hut his friends succeeded in keeping him on the political scene.

1860 On May 18, 1880, at a Republican Convention in Chicago, Lincoln was nominated as candidate for the presidency. On November 6th, he hecame the first Republican to he elected President of the United States.

After Lincoln's election, the little law office at 103 South Fifth Street was so heseiged with well-wishers, office seekers, newspaper men, artists, and photographers that Lincoln was given a room in the State House.



President-elect Lincoln's office in the State House where he received friends, well-wishers and office seekers.

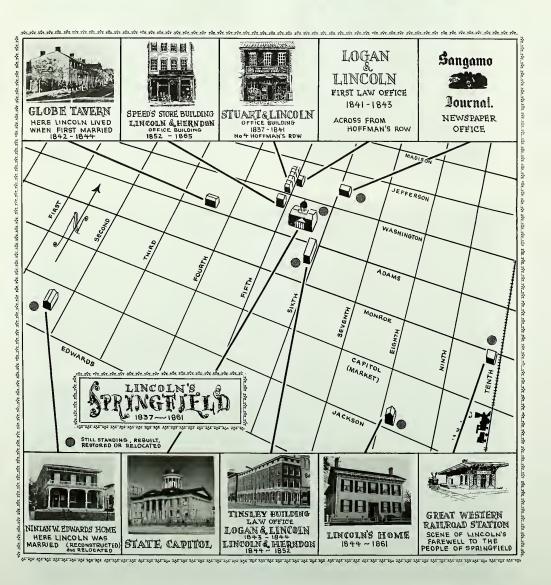
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1861 On February 10, 1861, the afternoon before Lincoln left for Washington and his inauguration, he stopped by to see Billy Herndon at the office. We quote from Mr. Herndon:

"He gathered a hundle of hooks and papers he wished to take with him and started to go; hut hefore leaving he made the strange request that the sign-hoard which swung on its rusty hinges at the foot of the stairway should remain. Let it hang there undisturhed, he said with a significant lowering of his voice. Give our clents to understand that the election makes no difference in the firm of Lincoln and Herndon. If I live, I'm coming hack some time and then wa'll go on practicing as if nothing ever happened." ... I accompanied him downstairs. Grasping my hand warmly and with a fervent 'Good-hye,' he disappeared down the street and never came hack to the office again."

Lincoln had just left the same building which he entered on April 15, 1837, with his saddlebags slung over his shoulder.







From Iliniwek, May-June, 1969

The restored Tinsley Building located on the southwest corner of Fifth and Adams Streets. Here on the third floor was Lincoln's law office from 1843 to 1852.

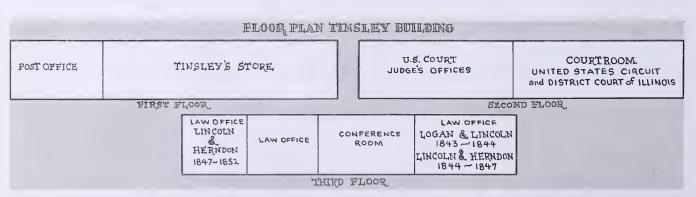
partnership William H. Herndon, a young man nine years his junior, who had just received his license to practice. Herndon had been a law student in the Logan & Herndon office. "Billy" as Lincoln always called him stayed in Springfield and took care of the office while Lincoln toured the circuit. This arrangement was ideal, and the two lawyers worked well together. During the ensuing years Lincoln was also active in politics, and on August 3, 1846 he was elected to Congress. He rode the circuit, however, until the middle of October 1847, when he made preparations to travel to Washington, D.C. to serve his one term in Congress.

Since Lincoln's absence from an active law practice would curtail the firm's income, their office was moved from the large front area of the third floor of the Tinsley Building to a small office at the rear of the third floor, which had once been occupied by Logan and his son David. Their business card appeared as follows in the local papers:

Abraham Lincoln W. H. Herndon Lincoln & Herndon, Attorneys and Councellors at Law, will practice in the Courts of Law and Chancery in the State Dec. 1847

When one attempts to define the precise location of the Lincoln-Herndon law office during the entire period of the firm's existence, there is some confusion. This is due to the fact that several months' issues of the *Illinois State Journal* are missing which would have shown a change, if they had moved, in their business card. While it is impossible to document their location in the Tinsley Building after August 23, 1849 it is generally believed that they remained there until October 1852. By October 1, 1852 their office was over the McGraw & Buchanan store on the west side of the Square, in the very same back room on the second foor vacated by W. I. Ferguson, Attorney. The *Illinois State Register*, September 25th and 27th, 1852 reported that Ferguson left Springfield for permanent residence in Texas.

Today it is difficult to locate the site of the McGraw



From Iliniwek, May-June, 1969

& Buchanan store on the west side of the Square. Perhaps it was in the same building as Lincoln's last (Fifth Street) law office, as there is no tradition that Lincoln was ever in any other location on the west side of the Square.

If the assumption is correct that the McGraw & Buchanan store was in the same building as the "Old Speed Store" then Lincoln was in the same building which he had entered on April 15, 1837 when he was about to begin the practice of law with John T. Stuart. Joshua Fry Speed was the partner in the James Bell & Company store located on the first floor of the building and Lincoln occupied a room with Speed on the front second floor. The Lincoln & Herndon law office was in a back room of the same second floor.

Today there are two markers on the Myers Brothers Store which gives the impression that Speed's store was next to the building in which Lincoln & Herndon had their law office. However, they were in the same build-

ing.

Lincoln is reported to have visited his Fifth Street law office for the last time on February 10, 1861. According to Herndon (Herndon & Weik, 1892 ed., II, 192-94) the President-elect made "the strange request that the sign-board which swung on its rusty hinges at the foot of the stairway should remain. 'Let it hang there undisturbed,' he said, with a significant lowering of his voice."

A sign hangs at the foot of the Tinsley Building stairway today bearing the words "Law Office — Abraham Lincoln & William H. Herndon." It is there because the building has been restored just as it was in 1843, when Lincoln moved into the top floor, front office. The original walls, floors, ceiling still stand; only the furnishings have been added.

The exterior walls of the second and third floors have been sand-blasted to restore the bricks' original color and texture so that the building appears today as if it were new. The first floor has been largely rebuilt, using 125 year old brick to match the floors above. An attractive store with 19th century fixtures occupies a portion of the first floor. Also, an old reconstructed post office adds to the attractiveness of the interior of the first floor.

The purchase and restoration of the Tinsley Building was instituted by enterprising Springfield citizens who were eager to add another historical facet to their city's

splendid heritage. The restoration project was a difficult historical problem; however, with the expert knowledge of James T. Hickey, the curator of the Lincoln Collection of the Illinois State Historical Library, the project was undertaken.

Hickey made a detailed study of all the original deeds to the property, as well as the mercantile and professional advertisements in the local papers in order to determine the many occupants of the building from the date of its construction in 1840 to the present day. A comprehensive study of the history of the building was the result of this project.

Exciting discoveries were also made of old letters, newspapers of the 1840s, account books, journals, Federal Court documents, documents of the U.S. Provost Marshal during the Civil War, business catalogues, almanacs, land records when John Taylor (S. M. Tinsley's fatherin-law) was receiver of the land office in Springfield, Lincoln items and other memorabilia under the attic floor (over the Lincoln-Herndon Offices) of the building. Around the turn of the century six wagonloads of old paper were hauled away from the attic or fourth floor of the building and burned. This was done by S. J. Hanes, and his son, Murray S. Hanes, witnessed the event.

The architectural design of the restored Tinsley Building is more "prairie classic" than Georgian, and its furnishing are almost stark in their simplicity. Lincoln's offices, "with layers of dust" and papers scattered about, gives the appearance of "general dishevelment that indicated the active law practice he had." The over-all appearance of the building's interior, which includes offices other than Lincoln's, and the Federal Court room, is one of disorder. According to the Chicago Tribune Magazine, December 15, 1968:

"Notices of sales, political rallies, bankruptcies were tacked to the walls. Boxes for wood stood about. Sandfilled boxes for spittoons were as often missed as hit. The place jumped with legal, political and social activity."

It has been the aim of the promoters to make the law offices and courts "seem as if they were still in use." The desired historical atmosphere has been achieved with the attic papers (worth thousands of dollars) scattered through the desks and on the tables and chairs.

This new Springfield shrine is open to the public



From Iliniwek, May-June, 1969

Lincoln's law office, third floor (front) of Tinsley Building. Occupied by Logan & Lincoln 1843-1844, and Lincoln & Herndon 1844-1847.

with a sight and sound program, with personnel to answer questions, with a museum of documents and with elevator service available in an adjoining building. It requires some thirty minutes to make the tour and one should allow more time if possible because it is well worth all the time you can devote to it. Adults are charged 50¢, children 25¢ and families may enter upon payment of \$1.25.

What would S. M. Tinsley think of his building today? Certainly he would be pleased with the restoration. There is no photograph of Tinsley and his is a sad story. He was born in Virginia. He married Hannah Taylor in 1833, and they had eleven children. The next year following his marriage he formed a business partnership with his father-in-law, John Taylor, which lasted until

The E. D. Taylor who became his partner in 1841 was not a blood relative of his father-in-law but became a relative when he married Margaret Taylor, Mrs. Tinsley's sister. Charles R. Hurst who was also a business partner of Tinsley, married Ann Taylor, another sister of Mrs. Tinsley. Hurst got into business first by buying out Joshua F. Speed when he returned to Kentucky.

S. M. Tinsley at one time had a fine home and had erected a large Metropolitan Hall. He was a director of Mechanics & Farmers Bank in 1852, opened a large lumber yard in 1856 and a large flour mill in 1859; but after that it is apparent that he ran into personal and financial

trouble.

His wife died February 23, 1867, at age 56, and her funeral was held at St. Paul's. Tinsley seems to have then closed or lost his home, because on March 25, 1868, when a fire destroyed the Metropolitan Hall which he no longer owned and which had been converted into a mill, the Illinois State Register reported that Mr. Tinsley, the former owner, had a sleeping room in the building and nearly lost his life in the fire.

The next year (1869) Tinsley died at 62 years of age

and was buried in the Hutchinson Cemetery, but his remains were moved to the Oak Ridge Cemetery in November 1870 and buried in an unmarked grave in the lot of his brother-in-law, E. D. Taylor. Tinsley left no estate to probate, and none of his eleven children seem

to have resided in Springfield at the time of his death. Is it not ironic that the restored structure on Sixth and Adams Streets is to be called The Lincoln-Herndon Building? Would not the name Tinsley Building, with its sign of "Lincoln & Herndon" swinging on its rusty hinges (they will get rusty) at the doorway on Sixth Street he more appropriate? Street be more appropriate?

History of The Tinsley Building

July 7, 1840 S. M. Tinsley bought a lot (Sixth at Adams) from Garrett Elkin, Thomas & Isaac Constant and William F. Elkin. Building may have been under construction.

December 25, 1840 First part of building occupied.

January 27, 1841 A notice in Journal stated that an art exhibit by Wilkins & Stevenson would be held in the building.

March 5, 1841

S. M. Tinsley & Co. (S. M. Tinsley, Wm. M. Cowgell and E. D. Taylor) removed their entire stock of goods to the new four story brick building, on the southeast corner of the public square, directly opposite the American House. (Register March 5, 1841) S. M. Tinsley & Company were retail merchants. Opdycke, Tinsley & Company were in the wholesale business.

Between January 1841 and August 1843, the U.S. Post Office occupied the back of the first floor. U.S. Court

moved to the second floor. March 19, 1841

The Register reported that Shields & Conkling had moved into the new Tinsley Building. They continued to advertise at this location until May 19, 1843.

July 28, 1842 Journal carried advertisement of S. M. Tinsley offering the store room for rent recently occupied by Opdycke, Tinsley & Co. 1843

Between June 15, 1843 and August 31, 1843 Logan and

Lincoln moved into Tinsley Building, probably occupying the vacated Shields & Conkling office.

April 4, 1844

The Journal reported that E. D. Baker and James H. Matheny had an office on the third floor. They vacated the office in December, 1845.

August 28, 1844

David Logan moved his office to the third floor over the post office. He moved to a new location on September 10, 1847.

December, 1844
Logan & Lincoln partnership ended. Logan wished to take son David as partner. David was already in the building on the same floor. Lincoln took as his partner William H. Herndon, a former student in the Logan & Lincoln firm.

February, 1847 A. T. Bledsoe moved into office over the post office.

February 17, 1849 Tinsley and Charles R. Hurst dissolved partnership. Hurst remained in building.

March 23, 1849

Hurst took in E. J. Taylor as partner, and firm became Hurst & Taylor. Tinsley moved to building in center block on south side of square.

 $July\ 30,\ 1849$ A. Campbell advertised office in Tinsley Building.

September 17, 1849
Tinsley moved back to Tinsley Building to the 2nd 20 foot front, next to Hurst & Taylor on corner. He called his new store "Tinsley's No. 2."

August 23, and 29, 1849 According to Daily Journal and Weekly Journal Lincoln & Herndon were still listed on the third story over the post office.

August 24, 1849

S. T. Logan had new office west of Hawley & Loose store. This was one and one-half blocks west of Tinsley Building.

August 27, 1849

Daily Journal carried statement that William Pope, Clerk of the United States District and Circuit Courts had office over post office in the Tinsley Building.

October 13, 1849 Advertisement in Register carried announcement that Tinsley had a tailoring establishment on the second floor of Store No. 2.

(To be continued in the October issue)



From Iliniwek, May-June, 1969

Small office on the third floor of the Tinsley Building (rear) occupied by Lincoln & Herndon, 1847-1852.

History of the Tinsley Building

(Continued from the September issue)

October 17, 1849

The Post Office was removed from building to John William's new building on 4th Street nearly opposite the store of Hickox Brothers. Two postmasters served in the building. G. W. Spottswood served as postmaster from August 1841 to November 1844, and Jonathan R. Diller served from 1844 to 1849.

November 22, 1850

William Peacocke's grocery moved into old Post Office room in building.

June 7, 1850

S. M. Tinsley sold building to Philip C. Johnson.

April 28, 1851

E. D. Taylor purchased stock of S. M. Tinsley. This was the store Tinsley had in west half of building. Taylor was partner of Hurst & Taylor in corner room.

May 16, 1851

William Peacocke offered for rent the old post office room and the second and third story of the west half of the building which was lately occupied by S. M. Tinsley.

June 19, 1851

An advertisement in the Register indicated that Peacocke moved from the Tinsley Building.

August 9, 1851

Tinsley offered for rent the store room vacated by Peacocke.

February 24, 1852

Journal carried advertisement that new firm of Pheasant & Pritchard had rented room vacated by Peacocke.

October 1, 1852

Lincoln & Herndon office over McGraw & Buchanan store west side of square vacated by W. I. Ferguson, attorney. Daily Register reported that Ferguson left for permanent residence in Texas September 25, 1852. (Register, September 27, 1852) Location of Lincoln & Herndon law office between August 23, 1849 when still in the Tinsley Building and this location is not definitely known.

April 1, 1853

The Register in statements dated April 1 and 19, announced the formation of a new mercantile firm, Yates, Smith & Co. at the old stand of Pheasant & Pritchard in the Tinsley Building. C. M. Smith was Lincoln's brother-in-law.

April 7, 1853

American Express Co. with S. M. Tinsley as agent was located over Hurst & Taylor (corner store) but whether second or third floor is not known.

August 17, 1855

A. C. Dickens, U.S. Marshal, announced the renting of the second floor of Logan Building (northeast corner of the square) thus moving the federal courts out of the Tinsley Building.

May 22, 1854

Philip A. Johnson et al sold building to James A. Barrett.

May 28 1856

Barrett sold east half of building to Charles W. Matheny. The complete text of the deed recorded that Yates & Smith occupied the building next door west and back of building which had been the Post Office until October, 1849.

February, 1858

Hurst & Matheny formed partnership. Matheny owned building where Hurst had store for many years. The firm became Matheny & Company.

1866

J. H. Matheny & Whithurst, lawyers, had office in building. Structure was called Matheny Building.

1868

John Bressmer took over store of Matheny & Co.

1868-1875

Matheny & McGuire, lawyers, had office in building.

1871

C. M. Smith razed the west half of the Tinsley Building and also the next two store buildings (Butler Brothers) and built "Smith's Block." The room nearest the corner was occupied by Roberts & Co. The next area by T. S. Little and the third room by C. M. Smith & Co. The original old post office room in the Tinsley building which fronted on Sixth Street was connected in the back of Smith's new store. (See Journal January 1, 1873, February 2, 1873 and January 1, 1875)

November 13, 1872

C. M. Smith & Co. moved into their new building.

1882

Frank Burnett, lawyer, had office in building.

1882-1914

The Farmers National Bank occupied first floor. The bank was organized in the office of Isaac Keys on May 2, 1882 (See *Journal*, May 3, 1882)

1884 Directory

Offices over the Farmers National Bank were rented to W. H. Colley, R. M. S. Crook, C. P. Kane (Rooms 3 & 4) and S. D. Scholes.

1882-1886

Bluford Wilson & Frank H. Jones, attorneys, had office in building.

1894

R. H. McAnulty, lawyer, had office in building.

1914

After the Farmers National Bank moved out of the building in 1914, its space was rented for mercantile businesses. For many years and until restoration there was a shoe store. The second floor space seems to have always been rented for law offices. However, only one law office was left when restoration started; the rest were vacant. The third floor was occupied for the last 72 years by Murray S. Hanes and his father, S. J. Hanes, who were architects.

February 16, 1967

The building was purchased and restored by Mr. and Mrs. James E. Myers, Mr. and Mrs. Robert B. Axtoby and Mrs. H. B. Bartholf.

1968

The restored Tinsley Building was opened in the fall to the public. There was no formal opening. The only literature available concerning the restored structure refers to it as The Lincoln-Herndon Building.

CORRECTION

The statement is made in the September, 1969 issue on page 2, first column, line three, that "Herndon had been a law student in the Logan & Herndon office." This law firm should have been Logan & Lincoln.

Unique Honor

Abraham Lincoln was "justifiably lauded at a Democratic political function (February 12, 1968) in Spokane . . . and then awarded an honorary membership in the Democratic party."

The Union ladies of the interior of Kentucky are having Bell and Everett printed on their bonnet strings. *Per contra* the republican ladies West are having pictures of Lincoln on their bonnet strings, as an offset to the Kentucky ladies.

Boston Advertiser (August 17, 1860)

Once Hung In Lincoln's Office. . .



A RARE PHOTO that once hung in Lincoln's law office in Springfield, Ill. is now owned by a Howell County resident. In the front of the frame is a studio picture of Lincoln and the back holds a photograph of the person identified in Lincoln's



own handwriting as Robert L. Lincoln. This item and others are owned by a Howell County resident who has documents to prove their authenticity.

Countian Has Rare Photo Of Lincoln

County.

office furniture from his to Washington, D.C. Springfield, Ill. law office is in not disclose their whereabouts, owner. nor his identity.

items were obtained by a Abraham Lincoln.

Possessions of Abraham succession of purchases that Lincoln, rare, scarce, and went back to a foster son of valuable as they are, have been Lincoln's law partner. This located right here in Howell man disposed of the Springfield properties after Lincoln A partial share of Lincoln's became president and moved

Authenticity of all items has the possession of a Howell been proven by written County resident who says the documentation which is held, items are so rare he had rather along with the items, by the

Today is the 165th an-The furniture and other niversary of the birth of

THE LINCOLN-HERNDON BUILDING Law Offices — Federal Court — Post Office



SIXTH AT ADAMS—SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

Only two blocks west and three blocks north of Abraham Lincoln's home sits the original, gently graceful building that housed Mr. Lincoln's offices, the Federal Court where he practiced, and the early Post Office. You can walk to it *in his footsteps*, or you can drive to it and park in the unique garage beneath the Old Capitol across the street from the offices, Sixth at Adams.

Or you may *start* from the Old Capitol, cross the street and visit the offices, court, post office, and *then* walk or ride the path Mr. Lincoln took, for many years, to his home. He walked these five blocks from 1843-1852—ten years—during his time as Congressman, lawyer, poet, inventor, husband, father, and much more.

Seeing these offices and the court, the visitor will sense something of the life, style, times of Abraham Lincoln the bread-winner, the hard-working lawyer supporting his family. It offers a unique opportunity to see this primary evidence of the middle years, those formative years that were to be for him, and for us all, so crucial.





Restored Lincoln Law Office & Federal Court

sixth street

Lincoln's Home

two blocks south two blocks east

REALTORS® COMMERCIAL INDUSTRIAL

April 26, 1982

Mr. Bob Haynes Lincoln National Life Insurance Company 1300 S. Clinton Street P.O. Box 1110 Ft. Wayne, Indiana 46801

Dear Mr. Haynes:

As a follow-up on our telephone conversation of this date I wish to thank you for the time and interest in our discussion of the Lincoln-Herndon Building in Springfield, Illinois.

This property fronts twenty feet on Adams Street and extends southwardly 107 feet on Sixth Street.

I understand it was errected in 1840 and occupied by Mr. Lincoln for the practice of law from 1843-52. The only federal court in Illinois was here from 1841-55.

The price of \$800,000.00 consists of the entire real estate and the contents of the building with the exception of a few items which are on loan.

I am looking forward to hearing from you or your people, I remain.

Very truly yours,

DOLAN REALTORS COMMERCIAL INDUSTRIAL, INC.

Herbert F. Levy

HFL/rlh



REALTORS® COMMERCIAL INDUSTRIAL DIVISION

July 16, 198

Mr. T. A. Burns, Vice President
The Lincoln National Life Foundation, Inc.
1300 S. Clinton St.
Fort Wayne, Ind. 46801

Dear Mr. Burns:

Recently we were commissioned to sell a most important and historic property — the Lincoln-Herndon Building in Springfield, Illinois, where Abraham Lincoln practiced law from 1843 to 1852. Since 1968, this famous property has been in the hands of a group of private individuals who now wish to divest themselves of it.

The purpose of this letter is to inquire if your foundation is interested in purchasing the Lincoln-Herndon Building in order to insure its preservation for future generations.

Here are a few statistics:

Location: 530 East Adams at Sixth Street across from Old

State Capitol Plaza.

Size: Three stories containing a total of 6,420 square

feet.

Utilities: All, including air conditioning and gas heat.

Present Use: Second and third floors restored in 1968 and turned

into a museum to depict Mr. Lincoln's law offices and the only Federal Courtroom in Illinois. Approximately 1,200 square feet of the ground floor is

leased to a brokerage firm, and the remainder is used as an entrance to the Lincoln museum offices

upstairs.

Price: \$800,000.00.

Individual Membership

DOLAN COMPANY

Page 2

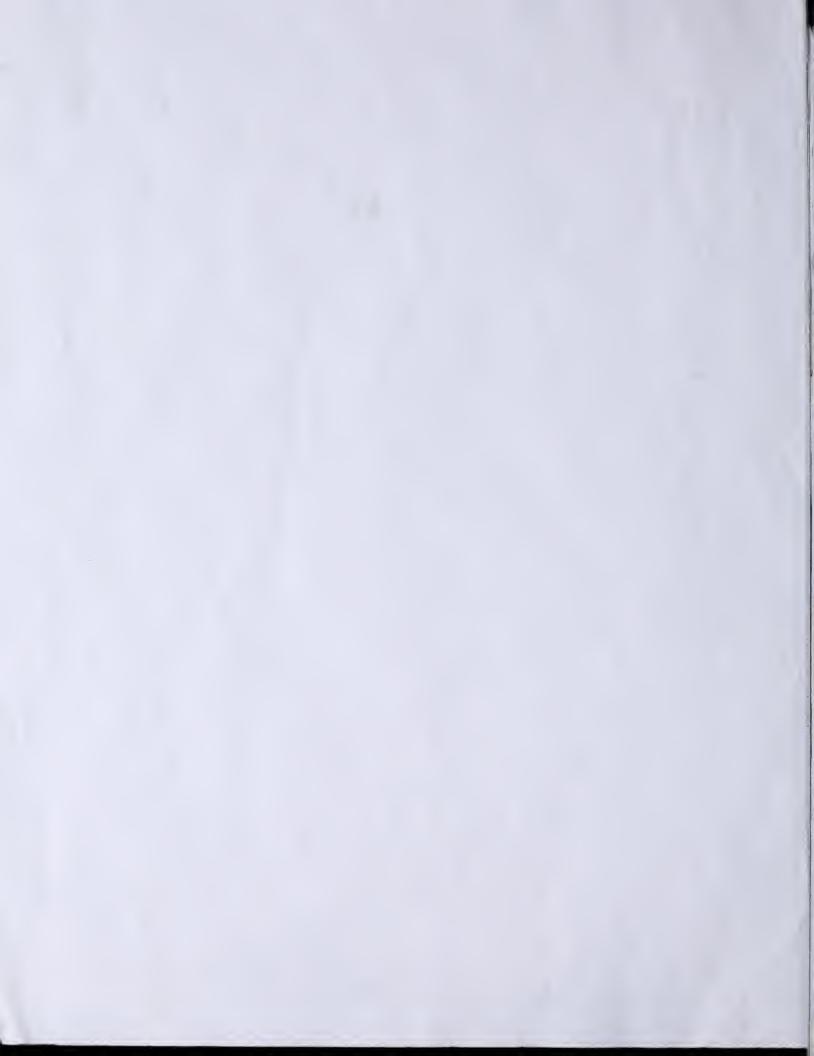
Please let me know of your interest.

Sincerely,

DOLAN REALTORS COMMERCIAL INDUSTRIAL, INC.

Herbert F. Levy

HFL/vlm



FOR SALE

ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S LAW OFFICES



SIXTH AND ADAMS SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

- LINCOLN-HERNDON LAW OFFICES IN WHICH ABRAHAM LINCOLN PRAC-TICED LAW FROM 1843 TO 1852
- ERECTED IN 1840
- HOUSED THE ONLY FEDERAL COURT IN THE STATE OF ILLINOIS IN 1845
- THE ONLY PROPERTY IN WHICH MR. LINCOLN WORKED WHICH REMAINS PRIVATELY OWNED
- RESTORED IN 1968; CONVENIENT TO AMPLE PARKING (SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR ADDITIONAL PICTURES AND LAYOUT)
- ONE OF THE MOST HISTORIC BUILDINGS WEST OF THE ALLEGHENYS
- TWO BLOCKS FROM CONVENTION CENTER, ONE BLOCK FROM NEW HILTON HOTEL, FOUR BLOCKS FROM LINCOLN'S HOME, AND FIVE BLOCKS FROM NEW STATE CAPITOL
- SALE PRICE: \$800,000.00

CONTACT: HERBERT F. LEVY





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Lincoln Law
Office

Students Room
To Read Law

Law Offices
A. T. Bledsoe
E. D. Baker

Lincoln Law
Office

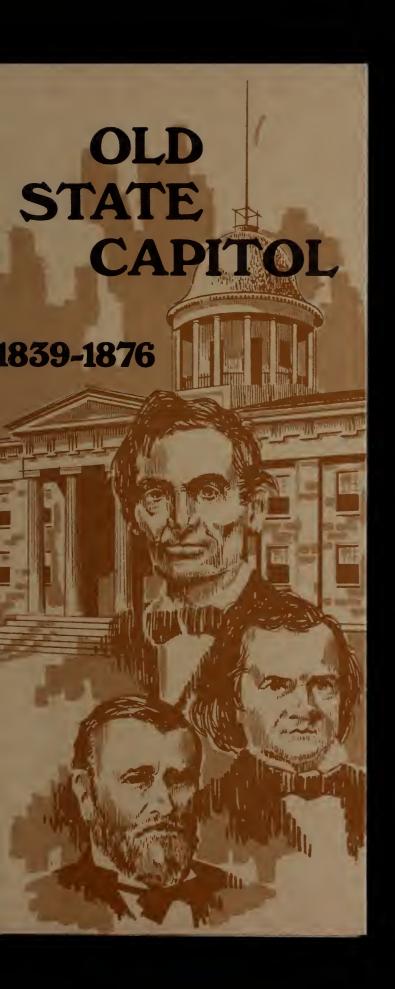
Clerk's Office

Museum

3rd Floor

2nd Floor

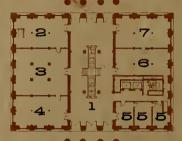








XIT WASHINGTON STREET



FIRST FLOOR ENTRANCE . ADAMS STREET

LEGEND

1-Lobby 2-Secretary of State

3-State Library 4-Auditor of Public Accounts

5-Treasurer (now used as offices for the administration of the building)

6-Law Library 7-Supreme Court 8—Representative

9-Committee Room

10-Adjutant General

11—Superintendent of Public Instruction

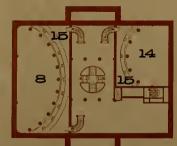
12-Governor

13—Governor's Reception Room

14-Senate Chamber

15-Ladies' Gallery





SECOND FLOOR



December 7, 1840 —March 1, 1841	Lincoln attends meetings of the Twelfth General Assembly as a member of the House of Representatives.
	of the House of Representatives.

March 1, 1843 Lincoln attends Whig meeting, Hall of Representatives. State Capitol.

Representatives, State Capitol.

March 20, 1843 Sangamon County Whigs meet in

Statehouse to select candidate for Congress. Lincoln, a candidate, withdraws in favor of Edward D. Baker.

June 9, 10, 1843

Lincoln writes resolution adopted by Whig meeting in Statehouse. He also speaks.

December State Whig convention at Statehouse.
11, 12, 1843 Lincoln chosen one of nine
Presidential electors for Illinois and

rresidential electors for lumois and speaks on second day.

May 22. 1844 Lincoln speaks on annexation of Texas

in Statehouse.

July 6, 1852 Lincoln delivers eulogy on Henry Clay

July 6, 1852 Lincoln delivers enlogy on Henry Clay in Hall of Representatives, Statehouse,

October 4, 1854 Lincoln speaks in Hall of
Representatives, Statchouse, in
answer to Douglas's talk the previous
day to which he had listened.

February 8, 1855 Lincoln is present when the Illinois legislature in Statchouse votes on U. S. Senator. A candidate, he withdraws in favor of Lyman Trumbul who is elected.

June 26, 1857 Lincoln delivers political speech in Hall of Representatives, Statehouse.

June 16, 1858 At Republican State Convention in Statchouse Lincoln is nominated for U. S. Senator and delivers "House

Divided" speech.

July 17, 1858 Lincoln speaks in Statehouse in answer to Douglas.

October 15, 1859 Lincoln makes political speech in Statehouse rotunda.

January 9, 1861 Lincoln attends legislature which re-elects
Lyman Trumbull U. S. Senator.
Lincoln with others is seated within bar.

May 3, 1865 Lincoln with others is seated within bar.

May 3, 1865 Lincoln's body reaches Springfeld at
9:00 p.m. and lies in state through the
night in Hall of Representatives until

night in Hall of Representatives until time for funeral, May 4, 1865.





THE RESTORED

stands in the center of the Springfield square bounded by Adams, Fifth, Washington and Sixtb Streets. Considered a perfect example of Greek Revival archiceture, it has been restored in minute detail. This building was a part of many important incidents in Abraham Lincoln's life and bad other significant historical associations as well. The Old State Capitol is now a State Memorial, as are the nearly Lincoln's Home and Lincoln's Tomb, all attracting and meriting national attention.

Saturday, November 15, 1963, was the day a dream came true for many people. The restored Old State Capitol was opened to the public, culminating over 70 years of effort to dedicate the structure to the memory of Abraham Lincoln and other giants of Illinois History,

HISTORICALLY PROMINENT

The Old State Capitol, described as "the most historic building west of the Alleghenies and one of the most historic in the United States" (in 1924) by Henry A. Converse, a Springfield, Illinois attorney, was the fifth of six seats of state government. The halls of this structure have echoed to the footsteps and voices of Abraham Lincoln, Stephen Douglas and Ulysses S. Grant. Here, on June 15, 1858, after he was endorsed by the Republican State Convention for the U.S. Senate. Lincoln gave his "House Divided" speech. Here, on April 25, 1861, Douglas made what many of his admirers considered to be his finest speech when he urged all citizens to rally behind the Union. Here Ulysses S. Grant served as the military assistant to Governor Ricbard Yates and T. S. Mather, Adjutant General. Here Grant was appointed Colonel of the 21st Illinois Volunter Infantry, bis first big step in command during his Civil War career.

This is our most historic state capitol but it was not the first. That honor belonged to a two story stucco covered brick residence in Kasakaskia, a town on the Missisippi that has long since disappeared. After that, there were three capitols in Vandalja, before the government of the State of Illinois moved to Springfeld.

On February 25, 1837, an act passed by the General Assembly in Vandalia providing that the two houses would meet and "proceed by joint vote to select some suitable point or place for the permanent location of the seat of government for the State of Illinois." Spring-field, Jacksonville, Vandalia, Peoria and Alton were the five top contenders and on the fourth ballot Springfield received 73 of the 123 vates cast.

The hard labor of two senators and seven representatives of which Lincoln was one from Sangamon County, a group known as the "Long Nine" because their total height was 54 feet, assured the victory for Springfield. Later during that same session the legislature accepted 2% acres of land known as the public square in Springfield.

John F. Rague, a talented architect from Springfield, a former pupil of the famous Minard Lefever of New York, was the man who designed the capitol. According to his plans, it was to be a Greek Revival structure measuring 123 feet, 4 inches west to east, and 89 feet, 1 inch north to south. The building was to be 59 feet high, not including a cupola which was 54 feet, 3 inches high. On the north and south sides were to be four-pillared porticoes, 44 feet, 6 inches long by 12 feet wide. A stone lined moat would surround everything except the porticoes.

The original plans called for a brick building on a stone foundation. The stone, a type of limestone called dolomite, was quarried six miles south of Springfield at a site now covered by Lake Springfield. The stone was so attractive that public opinion persuaded the State House Commissioners to forget about the brick and build the walls with dolomite. The cornerstone, laid July 4, 1837, was a cause for a day-long eelbration in Springfield.

A total of 16 years was required to complete the structure and by 1853, the building was considered finished. About \$260,000 was expended for the land, construction and some of the furnishings.

The cupola was a source of trouble for some time. The prairie winds sbook the tin roofing of the tonheavy structure, causing it to leak. In 1845, Thompson Campbell, the Secretary of State, had the tin replaced with painted canvas. Even if it did not shield the solons from the rain, the cupola served a useful purpose. During political rallies of the day, a lookout in it could see the dust billowing around the incoming delegations as they rode toward Springfield, Later, after the railroads came to town, it was the smoke from the engines that announced the pending arrival of the politicians and party adherents.

LINCOLN AND THE OLD CAPITOL

THE OLD CAPITOL
Lincoln was closely associated
with the Old State Capitol from
the day in 1837 when the general
assembly voted to move the seat of
government to Springfield. At that
time Lincoln was 28 years old and
was serving his second of four
terms as a representative. From
April 16, 1837, when Lincoln moved
his home from New Salem to
Springfield, until 1861 when he left
Springfield for the White House,
Lincoln's law office was never more
than a block from the square. He
tried over 200 cases before the Supreme Court, borrowed books from
the state library and read and
played chess in the law library.

He served in the Legislature and

played chess in the law library.

He served in the Legislature and later addressed a number of political and civic meetings there. The most famous of these specches was delivered on June 16, 1858 when he said: "A house divided against it-self cannot stand.' I believe this government cannot endure, permanently half slave and half free. I do not expect the Union to be dissolved —I do not expect the thouse to fall—but I do expect it will cease to be divided."

Lincoln did not campaign actively

divided."

Lincoln did not campaign actively for the Presidency in 1860, but during the period between his nomination in May and the election in November he spent much of his time in the Governor's office, and after the election that office became his headquarters. There, during those turbulent days just before the Civil War, he received well wishers, office seekers, political leaders and reporters.

The last time Lincoln was in the

The last time Lincoln was in the Capitol was in May, 1865 when his body was returned to Springfield for burial. A catafalque was erected at the speaker's rostrum in the Hall of Representatives and the manufacture of the catafalque was catafalque and the manufacture the speaker's restrict in the Hail of Representatives and the martyred President's mourning friends and neighbors filed by in a constant stream from 9 P.M. on May 3 until time for the funeral the next morning.

DOUGLAS AND GRANT

Although the Old State Capitol was almost like a second home to Lincoln, it also played an important role in the lives of other famous Illinoisans. Stephen A. Douglas, Lincoln's long-time rival was elected to the United States Senate three times by the state legislature meetings there. (Senators were then elected by the legislature recting there. (Senators were then elected by the legislature recting there. (Senators were then elected by the legislature meetings of the senators of the Chapton and the senators of the Chapton and popular vote.) The first time was when he was only thirty-four years old, and the third time was in 1859 when Lincoln was his opponent. Like Lincoln, Douglas addressed numerous meetings and political ralies in the Capitol and served on the Supreme Court from 1841 to 1843. After the first shots of the Civil War had been fired Lincoln and Douglas conferred at the White House and the President asked his former rival to return to Illinois and rally support for the Union cause. The speech that Douglas delivered before a joint session of the Illinois legislature on April 25, 1861, was perhaps bis greatest and brought tremendous applause.

Another famous Illinoisan whose career was linked with the Old Capitol was General Ulysees S. Grant. His first Civil War assignment was as a clerk in the Illinois adjutant general's office, but it was not long before his abilities were recognized and he was made a colonel by Governor Richard Yates.

Still other Civil War generals served in the legislature while it was medical.

Still other Civil War generals served in the legislature while it was meeting in the Old Capitol; among them were John A. Logan, Governor Richard J. Oglesby and John A. McClernard.

CONSTRUCTS NEW CAPITOL

The population of Illinois increased from 1,711,951 in 1860 to 2,639,891 in 1870. After the Civi War, it became obvious that the state had outgrown its capitol build-

ing. On February 25, 1867, an act was passed by the general assembly to provide for the construction of a new statehouse. The act also provided that the state could sell the Old State Capitol to Sangamon County for a sum of \$200,000. In January, 1876, state offices were moved to the sixth and present capitol and the Old State Capitol became the Sangamon County Courthouse.

moved to the sixth and present capitol and the Old State Capitol became the Sangamon County Courthouse.

Before too many years had passed, the expanding county government required more space and the supervisors wondered how to obtain additional room. On September 13, 1898, a motion was made to the board of supervisors to demolish the building and build a new courthouse. The public opposed destruction of the building and the supervisors woted to stay in the Old State Capitol. But the question of what to do to obtain more space had not been solved. Several suggestions and plans were submitted to the supervisors but were rejected because the appearances of the building would be changed drastically; in 1899, a plan by S. J. Hanes and S. A. Bullard was approved. The two Springfield are fulled to the supervisors but were rejected because the appearances of the building would be changed drastically; in 1899, a plan by S. J. Hanes and S. A. Bullard was approved. The two Springfield are fulled to the foot of the fulled that the Old State Capitol be raised and another floor be built on the foundation.

The job was finished in 1901. Not only was another floor added. the

foundation.

The job was finished in 1901. Not only was another floor added, the interior was rebuilt, a higher cupola was added, ground level entrances were constructed at the east and west entrances and the moat was filled. The cost of the project came to \$175,000.

INTEREST AROUSED

INTEREST AROUSED

A national surge of interest in obtaining a better understanding of the 16th President was generated by the completion of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D. C. in 1922. Again the thought of preserving the Old State Capitol came up, and the Abraham Lincoln Association pushed the idea.

In 1929, the general assembly passed a law creating the Lincoln Memorial Commission to plan a memorial to the martyred president. A report, issued by the commission two years later stated that Illinois should restore the sites associated with the Lincoln tradition. Most prominent among the sites recommended was the Old State Capitol. According to the commission report, the state should acquire the building, restore it to the original beight and refurnish it as it was in Lincoln's day.

STATE PURCHASES COURT HOUSE

CCURT HOUSE

In 1959, the county supervisors agreed to sell the Old State Capitol to Illinois. But the house appropriations committee recommended that bills sponsored by the late Senator George E. Drach, Representatives G. William Horsley, Allen T. Lucas, and George P. Coutrakon, all of Springfeld and Orval Hittmeier of Litchfield be rejected. During the 1961 session, the General Assembly voted to purchase the Old State Capitol for \$975,000 from Sangamon County. Governor Otto Kerner signed the bill on August 24, 1961.

The restoration of the Old State Capitol for \$975,000 from Sangamon County. Governor Otto Kerner signed the bill on August 24, 1961.

The restoration of the Old State Capitol began in February 7, 1966 when the dolomite blocks on the exterior and the pillars were removed, numbered and stored at the state fairgrounds. The interior was reconstructed, a 450 car parking garage was installed and quarters for the State Historical Library were provided. The 3,300 pieces of stone were replaced one by one, like addimension jigsaw puzzle. The building was dedicated December 3, 1968.

\$300,000 CONTRIBUTION

More than \$300,000 was raised by the Abraham Lincoln Associa-tion of Illinois to purchase furnish-ings. The job of collecting the artifacts was undertaken by the State Historical Library. Furnish-ings for the Old State Capitol were acquired from Illinois and other

areas east of the Mississippi and authenticated by the Illinois State Historical Library.

authenticated by the Illinois State Historical Library.

A number of pieces of furnishings on display in the Old State Capitol are of historical stature. The large desk to the right of the north entrance to the Hall of Representatives is the desk upon which Lincoln wrote his first inaugural address. At the time, January 1861, the desk was located on the third floor of a department store, owned by Lincoln's brother-in-law, Clark Moulton Smith, on the south side of the square. In the Senate Chamber to the left of the entrance is one of the original desks used in the Senate Chamber are form which the present desks are identical copies. To the right of the entrance to the Senate Chamber are four pieces of furniture that were on the Lincoln's cofin while aboard the long marble-topped table, a gift from the Pennsylvania Railroad, was the resting place for President Lincoln's cofin while aboard the train. Three red plush covered pieces; a couch, reclining chair, and small folding chair, all originally made for President Lincoln's private railroad ear, were aboard the car which became part of the funeral train.

Several pieces are original furnishings. An original desk is lowers.

tuneral train.

Several pieces are original furnishings. An original desk is located on the south wall of the Auditor's office and an original secretary-desk is located in the Treasurer's office, which is now being used as the custodian's office. A knee hole desk in the State Library also an original piece of furniture, as is a round back chair in the Governor's recention room. or's reception room

There are four original Lincoln presidential campaign posters on the walls of the historic building.

HISTORICAL PAINTINGS

PAINTINGS

The huge oil paintings of George
Washington, hanging behind the
speaker's rostrum in the Hall of
Representatives and one of General
LaFayette which hangs behind the
Senate rostrum was the result of a
joint resolution passed by the Illinois General Assembly in 1839.
Colonel James W. Berry of Vandalia, Illinois was commissioned to
make reproductions of two originals which hung then and still do,
in the House of Representatives in
Washington, D. C. Berry went to
Washington, D. C. Berry went to
Washington, D. C. Berry went to
Washington and copied (in oil)
the portrait of General LaFayette
which had been presented to the
United States by French artist, Ary
Scheffer and the Washington portrait by John Vanderlyn, a New
York artist, Berry's framed portrait of LaFayette measures 8 feet
8 inches tall and 6 feet 7% inches
wide; his Washington painting is
8 feet 11½ inches tall and 6 feet
3½ inches wide.

Berry was termed "Colonel" because he held this rost and

Berry was termed "Colonel" be-cause he held this rank and for some years served as Adjutant Gen-eral of the State of Illinois.

The Illinois State of Illinois.

The Illinois State Historical Library provided many items including many ôil paintings. Some which will draw comment are four large paintings showing each side of the city square in 1867.

city square in 1807.

Located in the near vicinity of
the Old State Capitol is the Lincoln
Home, the only home he ever
owned; the restored Lincoln-Herndon law office; the depot from
which he departed Springfield for
the Presidency; and the Lincoln

The cost of restoring the Old State Capitol, including the land ac-quisition, construction of the two-level underground garage and His-torical Library, is approximately \$8,600,000.

\$8,600,000.

The Old State Capitol will be under the supervision of the Division of Parks and Memorials of the Illinois Department of Conservation, It will be open from 9 A.M. unit 6 P.M. every day except New Year's Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas. There is no admission fee. There are no conducted tours, but there are guides in attendance in each of the rooms.



The Hall of Representatives has been restored in flawless authenticity to the point one can almost visualize Lincoln delivering his "House Divided" address.



The Senate chamber with the oil reproduction of General LaFayette hanging above the rostrum.



The Supreme court room where Lincoln pleaded more than 200 cases and where Stephen A. Douglas sat as a justice from 1841 to 1843.

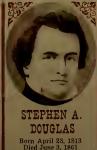


The Governor's office....Lincoln used this office after his election to the presidency until the time he left Springfield for Washington.



The office of the Adjutant General... Here Ulysses S, Grant served as a clerk to start his monumental rise to General of the Union Army.

GIANTS IN ILLINOIS HISTORY









ULYSSES S. GRANT

Born April 27, 1822 Died July 23, 1885



For further information concerning Illinois State Parks and Memorials write to the DIVI-SION OF PARKS AND MEMO-RIALS, 100 State Office Building, Springfield 62706.

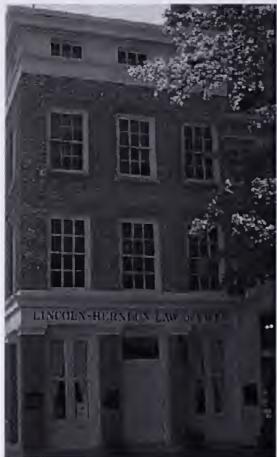
Our numerous State Parks and Memorials are of easy access from every part of the state. Lodges, cabins, and dining rooms are important features of Illinois Beach, Starved Rock, Pere Marquette, White Pines Forest, and Giant City State Parks. Reservations for lodging should be made with lodge managers.

all State Parks are open the year round, except when weather conditions necessitate the closing of park roads during the freezing and thawing periods. Then access to park facilities is by foot traffic only. All State Memorials open the year round except Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day.

(Printed by authority of the State of Illinois)

Issued by

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
Division of Parks and
Memorials



Lincoln-Herndon Law Offices State

Historic Site

Lincoln-Herndon Law Offices

The Lincoln-Herndon Law Offices State Historic Site has been restored to appear as it may have looked from 1843 until about 1852, when Abraham Lincoln practiced law from rented offices on the building's third floor. Lincoln had three different law partners with whom he rented office space in buildings on or around the public square during the approximately 23 years that he practiced law in Springfield. The Lincoln-Herndon Law Offices State Historic Site, managed by the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, is the only one of those structures still standing.

From 1841 to 1855 the federal government rented space on the building's second floor for a courtroom, court clerk's office, and judge's chambers to serve the United States district and circuit courts, which held semi-annual sessions in Springfield. Like the third-floor attorney's offices, the courtroom, clerk's office, and judge's chambers have been restored to look as they might have appeared. On the the first floor, Springfield merchant Seth M. Tinsley, who owned the building, operated a store and leased space to the federal government for a post office. Today, the first floor features an orientation center where visitors may view exhibits and a video describing the site's history.

Abraham Lincoln's Springfield Law Offices

On April 15, 1837, Abraham Lincoln moved to Springfield from New Salem and entered practice with Springfield attorney John Todd Stuart. The firm of Stuart and Lincoln (Lincoln was the junior partner)

occupied an office near the northwest corner of the public square. In 1841 Lincoln left Stuart to enter a partnership with Stephen Trigg Logan, and in 1843 Logan and Lincoln moved into an office on the third floor of the building that is now the Lincoln-Herndon Law Offices State Historic Site.

The third-floor corner office occupied by Logan and Lincoln was a prime location. Immediately beneath on the building's second floor was the federal courtroom, and just across Sixth Street was Springfield's finest hotel, the American House, which provided lodging for many lawyers and lobbyists who flocked to Springfield each year for sessions of the state legislature, the Illinois Supreme Court, and the federal courts. The office of Logan and Lincoln was also near the county courthouse, which stood about a block north on Sixth Street, and across the square from the state capitol building (now the Old State Capitol State Historic Site). The state capitol housed two fine libraries where Lincoln and his partners did research, as well as the Illinois Supreme Court where they pled numerous cases.

After Logan and Lincoln dissolved their partnership in 1844, Lincoln took on 26-year-old William H. Herndon as his junior partner. They kept the third-floor corner office, and their practice flourished as Lincoln and Herndon became one of Springfield's leading law firms. Lincoln was elected to Congress in 1846, and when he moved to Washington, D.C. in 1847, Herndon moved their firm into a smaller office on the south end of the third floor. There Lincoln resumed the practice of law when he returned in March 1849. It is uncertain when Lincoln and Herndon left the building, but their newspaper notices indicate that by late 1852 they had moved because they were advertising from an office on the west side of the public square.

Lincoln and Herndon used their dingy third-floor offices to consult with clients and prepare cases for trial in the federal courts, the Illinois Supreme Court, and the stat's Eighth Judicial Circuit, which covered most of east-central Illinois. While Lincoln rode the circuit for several months twice each year, Herndon stayed in Springfield, and the work was often so boring and tedious that he once described the law office as "a dull, dry place."

It was not always so boring. Sometimes the male lawyers, court officials, clients, and even jurors who were in the building pushed aside their work to gather in the third-floor common or jury room for fun and fellowship or to listen to one of Lincoln's stories. A law clerk later recalled: "While in the office considering some important case I have frequently known him to put the book down, and all at once break out;'Do you know what this case makes me think of?' And then he would tell a story. In this way humor would enliven jurisprudence."

The Lincoln-Herndon partnership lasted until Lincoln's death in 1865, even though the two attorneys stopped practicing law together after the senior partner's presidential nomination in 1860. Before he left Springfield on February 11, 1861, Lincoln told Herndon to keep their firm's "sign-board" hanging out and promised that if he came back alive, "then we'll go right on practicing law as if nothing had ever happened." But it was not to be. As Herndon later described Lincoln's last visit to the office, the soon-to-be president grasped his hand warmly, "and with a fervent 'Good-bye,' he disappeared down the street, and never came back to the office again."

The Tinsley Building: From Store to State Historic Site

A portion of the original building that Seth M. Tinsley erected for a store in 1840 and 1841 remains standing. The original structure, known locally as the Tinsley Building, was a large "merchant's block" erected in the then popular Greek Revival style, a style also apparent in the Old State Capitol, which was built at about the same time. The Greek Revival style called for a symmetrical arrangement of features, a low pitched roof, and the pilaster strips vaguely reminiscent of ancient Greece and Rome that can still be

2 of 4

seen on the building's first-floor exterior. Though the building was erected for commercial use, Tinsley began renting space to lawyers and the federal government shortly after the building's completion.

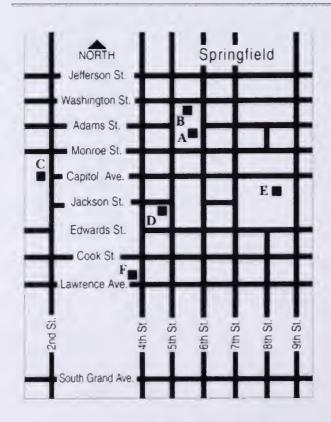
Seth Tinsley sold his merchant's block in 1850, after which it passed through several hands. In 1872 Abraham Lincoln's brother-in-law, Springfield merchant C. M. Smith, tore down three-quarters of the building, all but the quarter now owned by the state. In 1967 the Lincoln-era remnant was purchase by local residents who sponsored its restoration. In 1985 the structure became a state-owned historic site managed by the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency.

Information

Lincoln-Herndon Law Offices State Historic Site is open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. from March to October and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. from November through February. The last tour begins 45 minutes before closing. The site is closed New Year's, Martin Luther King, Jr., Presidents, Veterans, General Election, Thanksgiving, and Christmas days. Visitors are advised to contact the site in advance for hours of operation. Reservations are requested for groups of 20 or more by contacting the Springfield Convention and Visitors Bureau, 1-800-545-7300 or 217-789-2360. The Lincoln-Herndon Law Offices are handicapped accessible. There is a suggested donation of \$2 for adults and \$1 for children.

For additional information, write Site Manager, Lincoln-Herndon Law Offices State Historic Site, 1 Old State Capitol Plaza, Springfield, IL 62701, or phone 217-785-7960 or 217-785-7961.

Map Key



- A Lincoln-Herndon Law Offices
- B Old State Capitol
- C Illinois State Capitol

- D Governor's Mansion
- E Lincoln Home
- F Dana-Thomas House

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Print this story

Researchers seeking descendants of historical Macomb merchant

Print Page

By Tom Radz/Assistant News Editor

MACOMB - Researchers with the Old Capitol State Historic Site in Springfield are searching for descendants of a Macomb historical figure as part of a project for the 2009 Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial celebration.

The man whose descendants are being sought out is N.P. Tinsley, a former dry goods store owner on the north side of the Macomb Courthouse Square during the middle of the 19th century. The information gathered about Tinsley will be used by the organization to help in their efforts to restore the store of Tinsley's brother Seth, who operated his business below Abraham Lincoln's law office in Springfield. The law office is located directly across the street from the Old State Capitol.

Seth Tinsley's store is located on the first floor of the building, while Lincoln's law office was located on the third floor, with a courtroom on the second floor. The upper floors of the building have already been restored by the organization.

"We want to bring the entire building into the same time period," historic researcher for the Old Capitol State Historic Site Kathleen Thomas said.

Thomas was in Macomb Thursday to seek out information about the Tinsley family and their ties to this area with the hopes of securing any information that will help with the details as to the layout of the Springfield store.

Courtesy Photo-Tinsley was one of Macomb's first merchants on the Courthouse Square. Researchers with the Old State Capitol Historical Site are looking for his descendants for a project they are doing.

Thomas believes Seth Tinsley could also have descendants still living in this area. After Seth Tinsley's death in 1868, four of his daughters came to Macomb to live with N.P. Tinsley.

The Tinsley daughters were Anna E., Jenny, Hannah and Louisa. Anna married G.F. Currey, but never had any children. Jenny married a Mourning, but was later called Mrs. A.J. Murray. Hannah was wed to James Perine of Kansas City. And Louisa married Beverly Harris, believed to be from either Bushnell or Quincy.

"I would give anything for a diary or even a family photo," Thomas said.

Any information about the Tinsley family can be submitted directly to Thomas, who can be contacted by phone at (217) 558-8899, or by email at kathleen.thomas@illinois.gov. Although the deadline for the project is 2009, Thomas is hoping for information to be delivered as soon as possible so the architects and archaeologists will be able to perform an accurate restoration of the building.

"We want the restoration to be as real to life as possible - a 'living store' if you will," Thomas said. "We want it to feel like you're in the 19th century when you step over the threshold of the store."

Close Window

abraham Lincoln



Hy See- Spring. Offices





